

**Dr. David Wilson**



February 7, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U. S. District Court Judge  
c/o Steve Silverman, Attorney at Law

Dear Honorable Judge Deborah K. Chasanow:

I am writing to attest to the character of former Mayor Catherine Pugh as she awaits sentencing for the acts of criminality with which she has been charged. I have known Mayor Pugh for almost ten years, dating back to my arrival in Baltimore on July 1, 2010 as the tenth President of Morgan State University. At that time, she was a member of the Maryland State Senate, indeed, she served as Majority Leader of the Senate from 2015-2016. She made it known to me that she was a proud two-time graduate of Morgan State University and still bled orange and blue every day.

In terms of her background, she grew up in Philadelphia, but came to Baltimore to attend undergraduate school. While at Morgan, she was involved in many University activities, including being a very prominent member of the renowned Morgan cheerleading team. Upon finishing Morgan, she went on to assume various other positions and eventually returned to the University to receive her MBA degree.

As I was getting my grip on the city of Baltimore and seeking to understand and appreciate our great history and culture, every place I turned, individuals would say to me, "Have you connected with Senator Pugh? She has a great understanding of the city of Baltimore, and as an elected official and a Morgan alum, would be an ideal person to acquaint you with the opportunities and challenges facing the city." I consulted with her frequently when she was a member of the senate on ways to enhance the University's presence in Annapolis, and on ways in which Morgan State University could cement its standing as an anchor institution in the city of Baltimore using our great expertise to help the city address many of its challenges.

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow

February 7, 2020

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What I have come to respect about Mayor Pugh is her tremendous love for her family, the city of Baltimore—every block of it—and her love of being the city's mayor. She has often said that was her dream job. On several occasions, Mayor Pugh would have a conversation with me about her desire to significantly reduce the crime in Baltimore City and the strategies that she was employing to do that, and I can recall one conversation, in particular, where she was teary eyed as she spoke about the "squeegee kids." Mayor Pugh saw those kids as her own children and regaled with stories of how she would stop for conversations with them, buy clothing for them, buy them food and even arrange for some of them to get jobs with organizations around the city. She had the same approach to the homeless population in our city, oftentimes picking individuals up off the street in her mayoral vehicle, driving them to homeless shelters to ensure they did not freeze at night and that they could enjoy a decent bath, change of clothes and good night's sleep.

I have come to know Catherine Pugh as a good person with a good heart, a positive spirit and an individual who cares immensely about the welfare of those less fortunate. It is, indeed, unfortunate that Mayor Pugh had a momentary lapse of bad judgement. She certainly is not a bad person. I would respectfully ask Your Honor to provide Mayor Pugh with a lenient sentence that would entail her devoting months, or possibly years, to the utilization of her impressive skills in service to the community of Baltimore. One thing is certain from interactions I have had with Catherine Pugh: she understands the tremendous mistake she made which has resulted in the loss of the job that she has coveted for years. Her mistake has taken a toll on her health and her overall well-being.

I do hope that Your Honor will take into account the punishment that she has experienced already.

Yours in respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DW', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. David Wilson, President  
Morgan State University

January 26, 2020

The Honorable Deborah k. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Dear Judge Chasanow:

My name is Maya Jackson. I am a current 2L at the University Of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. I am writing on behalf of my aunt, Catherine E. Pugh ("My aunt"). I understand that my aunt is scheduled to appear before your honor on February 27, 2020.

My aunt has repeatedly played a key role in my life at various crucial moments. Although my parents always pushed education, they often struggled to present themselves as role models and lead by example. While my mother was physically and emotionally unavailable during my freshman year of high school, my aunt would often travel two-hours to visit my sister and I on the weekends. She would make take us shopping to make sure we were clothed. She would check our homework. Ultimately, she made sure we were pushing forward rather than giving up. Unaware of how busy she was, I didn't understand how much these efforts illustrated her character. My aunt was barely sleeping. She would intentionally take the train so she could use that time to work on various projects and tasks she had going on with Baltimore city. She was going above and beyond not because she had to, but because she wanted to and because she cared.

Similarly, during my undergraduate career, my mother and father were both often unavailable. My sister was a Penn State student while I was at student at Temple University. Lacking guidance, my aunt would often invite us to senator hearings in Annapolis. She allowed my sister to stay with her during winter and spring breaks to explore her career interests. It was my aunt who drove me to my first internship interview. My aunt took me to all her events during

the summer of 2016 so I could meet different attorneys to help solidify my interest in law school. My aunt is who I confide in during these stressful law school days.

Outside of what she's done for me, being in Baltimore allowed me to realize my aunt does not just go above and beyond for family, but for the city of Baltimore. Visiting my aunt after late nights in the library, I was fortunate enough to see what goes on beyond news reports. I was able to see everything she does outside her regular duties. I remember her talking about a young boy who was often seen in the street instead of school. My aunt went from simply telling him to go to school, to taking him to school, to placing him in a safer home and better school.

Listening to my aunt's stories and watching her work endlessly for the city as a whole and individually with some of Baltimore's most vulnerable citizens reminded me of a talk we had during my undergraduate career. I remember sitting in the car with her for an hour. I was upset because I felt unclear about what I wanted to do with my life. I remember my aunt telling me to be unclear is okay. I remember her telling me she never knew exactly what she wanted to do, but that she just knew she wanted to help people. It was my time during my 1L year where I watched and listened to my aunt talk about her plans for the city that I realized losing sleep did not matter because my aunt was doing exactly what she said she wanted to do years ago.

Your honor, my aunt will appear before you because mistakes were made. However, I have witnessed genuine accountability and true self-disappointment. I also witnessed the strength to right wrongs and an ability to still help others. I hope your honor takes into consideration probation during my aunt's sentencing. I believe my aunt can better right her wrongs within the community rather than a facility.

Thank you,

*Maya C. Jackson*  
Maya Jackson

## Testimony on behalf of Catherine Pugh:

Good morning. I am Fred Lazarus, President Emeritus of the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and chair of the Board of the Baltimore Design School. I regret that I am out of town and unable to present these remarks in person.

Catherine and I first met almost 50 years ago. At the time she was a staff person for Baltimore CEBO, a minority business development organization in Baltimore; and I was working with National CEBO in Washington. Catherine was enrolled in a training program that I was staffing. Later, when I moved to Baltimore, I joined the Baltimore CEBO board and chaired it for many years.

Catherine and I have remained friends ever since and I worked with her on many projects, including the Fish Out of Water initiative. About 15 years ago, Catherine came to me when I was President of MICA to ask me to help her start a Baltimore City Public school focused on Fashion Design. She had visited a similar school in New York and was convinced that young girls who were interested in fashion would be motivated by this kind of a school and through it build self confidence and become engaged in their academics. Because of my schedule, I turned her down three times, but she did not give up and after being asked the fourth time, I said yes. She and I engaged a few others, decided the school should have a broader focus

and include graphic design and architecture, wrote a proposal for the school, convinced Dr. Alonzo and the school board of the merits, and opened the Baltimore Design School a decade ago.

Today this school, located in a renovated building in Station North, has over 500 students from every zip code in the city, the high school is ranked by the State as 4th best in the city behind City, Poly and the School for the Arts, a 100% of the graduates are accepted to either a 2 or 4 year colleges and it is truly changing lives. This school would not exist if it were not for Catherine's passion, determination and hard work. She had the vision, she helped us raise the money to buy and renovate a long derelict building and start the school, and to recruit an outstanding board. I and all the students and their families are indebted to her.

Thank you so much for allowing me to be able to present these remarks and again I regret that I could not be present in person.

Fred Lazarus  
President Emeritus, MICA  
Chair, Baltimore Design School

Gabrielle Winkey



January 28, 2020

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney

RE: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I am writing as a close family, friend of Ms. Catherine E. Pugh in hopes to share more about how she has contributed to the improvement of many young people's lives including myself and my siblings. Over the past months many news headlines and stories have said very ugly demeaning things about Ms. Pugh which I find very hard to accept as her character. For that reason, I would like to take you on a journey lending more details about the strong, intelligent, motivated, caring, inspiring, role model I grew up admiring.

Our history began back in 1994-1995 when my parents first moved to 3602 Dennlyn, Rd. I was 4 at the time, and I remember seeing this well-dressed lady running in and out of her house to get in her old Jaguar. From the age of 4 until about 8 or 9 our interactions were just surfaced as neighbors. Hi, bye,

how are you; the things you say to a familiar face. My admiration for Ms. Pugh really began to sprout by time I was 8 or 9. It was at this time my brother and I joined Ms. Pugh to help her campaign for city council. We spent hours going door to door seeking support for this vibrant woman with unwavering discipline (I will expound on this point later) and fresh ideas. During this campaign, I firsthand witnessed how hardworking Ms. Pugh is. It was also at this time I learned how much Ms. Pugh loved the city of Baltimore. Many politicians parade on and on about how they love their territory, but Ms. Pugh was different. It was like she didn't sleep. Whenever she was home, she would bury herself in documents and research about successful innovative programs from other cities to improve education and combat crime.

The year following becoming a city council woman Ms. Pugh championed the Fish out of Water program. A program where established artist decorated fish moldings in effort to add some beauty and creativity to our city as well as raise money for the art and music programs in Baltimore City Public Schools. My brother and I helped with the auction, and even participated in the news interview. I remember thinking how cool it was to not only be on TV, but also how cool it was to participate in something that was going to help schools, including mine, have money for instruments. At this early age, I remember learning from her how important it was to take pride in community.

Following city council, I participated in campaigning with Ms. Pugh for the City Council president, and even interned in her office when she was Delegate Pugh of the 41<sup>st</sup> district. When working for Ms. Pugh she always pushed me to be the best. What I am kidding, even outside of working for her she pushed me to be the best. Early on she exposed me to the political atmosphere leading to experiences that I consider to be



invaluable to this day. Dining with other political leaders, going to the state capital building learning about the process of voting on bill, and so much more. When I was younger I didn't fully comprehend how much these experiences meant, but in becoming an adult I realized that there are many people who don't understand our government. While I took a government course in school, having this exposure first hand made me a better-informed citizen.

In the midst of pushing to pass laws through the house, and later the senate, Ms. Pugh wanted to see improvements to the education system in Baltimore. For many years prior there have been unfavorable appropriation of funds for Baltimore City Public Schools. Schools were closing without opening new ones to replace them. The conditions of the schools were falling apart. That said she took action to raise funding and build partnerships to open a much-needed public school focused in STEM and art, the Baltimore Design School. Having a school with state of the art computers, clean environment, and creative free space is very important to the youth of Baltimore. It's very evident how important it is to have access to nice things, and to have a nurturing environment for the creative mind. The Baltimore Design School gives youth from all over the city an opportunity to play on a level playing field. While it's very possible this opportunity could have presented itself in a different way, Ms. Pugh made the possibility a reality.

Aside from what you can see from her documented record. Ms. Pugh listened to her constituents. I got to experience this first hand. See my little sister has special needs. As an infant, she was diagnosed with down syndrome, and later diagnosed with autism as a toddler. My sister has had to face many obstacles. Even to this day she is nonverbal. Because both my parents had to work, my sister had to catch the school bus. One thing to

know about me is that I have always been vigilant and protective of my sister. When I would get my sister off the school bus I noticed the bus aids would change so frequently. To make matters worse they wore street clothes, and had no identification. This was very worrisome to me. How could we know for certain that they belonged on that bus? Did these people have the proper background checks? My sister couldn't tell me if something was wrong. I highlighted all of these concerns to Ms. Pugh, senator at the time. She asked questions, got a good understanding, and then introduce a bill that those operating school busses and the aids had to have proper identification. While a bill like this may seem small, its very important to people like my sister. Kids with no voice need to be protected.

Over the years Ms. Pugh has had many prestigious titles, but to me and my family she has always been Ms. Pugh. To be honest, I consider Ms. Pugh to be her most important title. Why? The titles were surfaced. It is Ms. Pugh's nature to want to serve her community. It's in her heart. No matter the title she had, she always gave it her all. I never looked at her as an ambitious politician. Rather I see her as a person wanting to make a difference. It's like she spent all her personal time working. Often, I would look at how tired she was, but anytime someone brought up topics regarding education improvements, or ways to improve Baltimore; her eyes would light up, and it was like she would get another life like in the video games. I never heard Ms. Pugh complain about conditions without suggesting a solution, and she really didn't tolerate others complaining around her without doing the same.

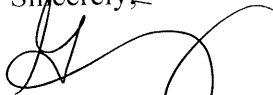
Ms. Pugh never showed a side of being materialistic. She has always been someone willing to give more to others than she would have herself. The things that she had for herself, she held

on to until they were no longer operable. We had to convince her get a new car. For the more than two decades I have known Ms. Pugh she has given all of herself including her health to her constituents and the city of Baltimore.

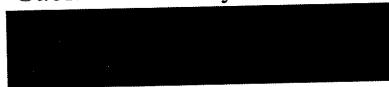
Your Honor, there is so much I can write about Ms. Pugh. She has been such a positive role model, and I have learned many subtle lessons from just silently watching. I ask that in presiding over her case that you consider the woman I know, and that you have mercy in your deliberation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Please feel free to call me at any time if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Winkey', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Gabrielle Winkey



The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
6500 Cherrywood lane Suite 400  
Greenbelt Maryland 20770  
C/O Steve Silverman  
RE : Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Judge Deborah K Chasanow

I am writing on behalf of Catherine Pugh. I understand  
That Catherine is scheduled to appear before you for  
Sentencing on February 27, 2020.

My name is James Crump I am Catherine's brother the  
Eldest of seven siblings born to James and Addie Crump  
Our father had a six grade education and went to a trade  
School where he received a certificate in upholstery.  
Our Mother was a high school graduate, who later went  
To school for practical nursing. Our father was a union  
Laborer, who worked as a boiler mechanic with Baldwin  
Ehert Hill and Keene plant making insulation pipes.  
Our Mother did house cleaning, she worked at a candy  
Factory and later as a practical nurse at the Stephen Smith  
Nursing home for the elderly, she worked their briefly.  
Our father did not like our Mother working outside of  
taking care of us. When there was any repairing to be done  
at home, our father would do the painting, plumbing,  
electrical, he did it all.  
We might have grown up in a average neighborhood,  
But our parents saw us as anything but average.  
When our parents found out the elementary school we attended

Was discarding the old school furniture they went their  
And came back with four school desk. We set them up  
In the back room of our house to create the school  
environment that would enable us to stay focus on our  
Class work, if we had any questions about our homework  
Our Mother would remind us of why They bought the  
World book encyclopedia. Catherine was a excellent student  
In school, she was a A, B, honor roll student. She kept  
Me on my toes because of how close we were in school,  
and in age eleven months apart. She kept me focus on  
my academics, outside of my sport activities. Our Mother  
would enter, or volunteer us in any amateur talent program  
that the church or school would have. We would sing  
different gospels on stage.

Catherine and I practiced and played the piano about three  
Years together, we would see Mr. Brown our piano teacher  
Every Saturday morning from nine to ten A.M. preparing  
For our piano recitals. Along with doing our chores around  
The house, we would do our homework, and Catherine and I  
Would practice our piano lessons for one hour everyday.

We came from a good home, spiritual, family oriented, and  
Very discipline. Our parents were very proud of Catherine,  
She was the first to enter college, Morgan State University.

I was drafted into the United states Army during the Vietnam  
War, after serving overseas I was stationed at fort Sheridan  
Illinois, and later Fort Meade Md. I would visit Catherine  
While she was attending Morgan State University, Catherine  
Was doing excellent at Morgan, indulging in their activities,  
She was a cheerleader, and a member of Delta.


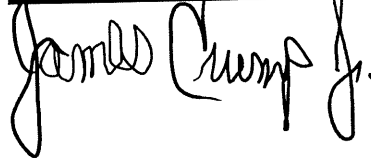
As a family we love our sister more than anyone can think  
Possible. Catherine has always been very supportive of our  
Three younger sisters, which are disabled.  
Catherine has provided and has taking them in  
When there was no place for them to stay. Catherine has  
Paid their rent whenever they were behind. Catherine is  
Like a Mother to them, as of late she has been very attentive  
To our baby sister's daughters providing a place for one while  
She is attending Law school. Catherine has always been a champion  
Of people, helping in communities, through education, worship,  
Motivation, she is one I know who will always give to those who  
Need a helping hand, a listening ear, and words of encouragement.  
It is a difficult concept for an outsider to understand, but  
It comes from what is inside us.  
Catherine will always have support, love, and more importantly  
Family. It is with this letter I hope you will recognize and  
Understand, the sincere devotion and character of my  
Sister Catherine. Catherine has shared her remorse and  
Regrets that have led to us being here today, she accepts  
Responsibility.  
It pains me to have watched her suffer, physically, mentally  
And emotionally. Catherine loves Baltimore.  
This is my plea to you to see and understand the person I  
have known and loved, to please extend a lenient decision.  
Judge Chasahaow thank you for your time, I wanted to speak  
From my heart, to hopefully give you an insight into  
Catherine's growing up. Catherine grew up in a family that believes  
In hard work, she started working at 14. She worked two jobs to

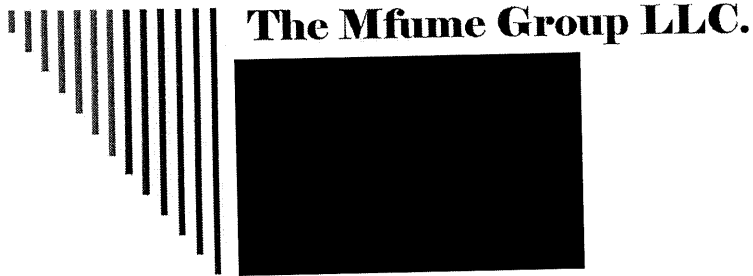
Earn her first semesters tuition for college. Our family also beln prayer and mercy. We are all praying that you show mercy for

her today.

Sincerely

James Crump Jr.



February 12, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Tricse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 N. Charles Street, Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD. 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow,

Respecting the ultimate authority of the court, this letter comes in support of former Mayor Catherine Pugh's appeal for leniency with respect to the violations of the law that she was convicted of.

While I'm not familiar with every aspect of the case, I am familiar with her. I've known Catherine since 1975 when we were both students in college. I still consider her a friend. Her life, legacy, reputation and name are all now permanently destroyed as a result of the consequences of her own actions.

In looking at all that you must ponder and consider, I don't know personally if justice is better served by sending her to jail at age 70, or by mandating instead, that she spend several years under court ordered supervision, voluntarily working with nonprofit, service orientated organizations that provide services and assistance to Baltimore's poor and indigent communities. This option seems to me at least, to have more value. Her skills and the accumulated knowledge she has gained over the years could be of valuable assistance to those community service groups, charities, and organizations in need of experienced assistance.

I appreciate your indulgence and respectfully ask that you consider my thoughts along with the many things that you contemplate regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Kweisi Mfume



The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow,  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney of Law  
US, District Court of MD

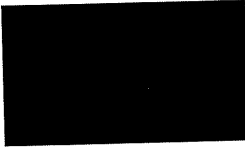
Good Morning, The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow,

I am Ardell Crump, brother of the defendant Catherine E. Pugh. I am a retired newspaper executive having worked in this field for over 30 years. 11 years with Daily News and Enquirer and 20 years with Random House at one of their major metropolitan newspaper The Trenton Times. I mentioned this because, I earned a pension and full medical benefits for the rest of my life for my services at Random House. Cathy could have gone that route but chose to be a public servant which is a 24/7 thankless job in my opinion. I know that you have a lot of information to make a decision on how you will proceed, but with the Courts permission, I would like to introduce who Cathy has been to me all my life. An exemplary Daughter, to Mom and Dad, God rest their souls. They kept us in church throughout our youth knowing that it would mold our moral and ethical behavior. Cathy is a dedicated sister to her six siblings. Pretty much raising our 4 younger sisters as our parents had to work long hours to provide for us and yet Cathy set an example by being an Honor student throughout school. Providing the example on how we should proceed. She never got in trouble. No smoking, no drinking of alcohol, no drugs and no teen pregnancy. Not even a traffic ticket. She is the first to go and graduate from College from amongst our many cousins. In graduating from Morgan State University to Newspaper owner to TV show host to business entrepreneur and politician Cathy's character never came under question. Cathy has been an example for all her family and friends to mirror. Cathy's Morals and ethics have been what has led her to be the confidant each of us her siblings have tapped into for direction. In difficult times whether it been work, financial help or personal life. My 3 younger sisters that have major health issues still depend on Cathy's guidance, emotional and financial support. Any removal of that could be catastrophic. This whole ordeal has had Cathy extremely remorseful. Cathy has never tried to intentionally defraud or enrich herself dishonestly. Healthy Holly was not about making a profit but about addressing an obesity issue in our society. Buying an older home and fixing it up was not about enriching herself but about staying in the community she has lived and served for 33 years. The humiliation of stepping out of office because the community has lost confidence in her due to the media portrayal of these circumstances are punishment enough for someone who has served and loved the community as she has. Imprisonment and loss of pension is harsh in my opinion. I have never seen Cathy so distress and second guessing herself as these times have presented. Cathy has not eaten or slept properly since these tribulations have unfolded. I have prayed with and have consoled her as much as I can. Cathy has taken full responsibility for all actions that have

led to today. The impact has and is hindering her emotional and physical wellbeing. I ask, no I beg the courts compassion on punishments and penalties. In closing, Psalm 34 v 19, states that many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers them out of them all. No one is perfect, but Cathy has tried to live righteously. Again, I beg you to deliver as much mercy and compassion as you have power to in making your decision. Thank you for -given me the opportunity to give you an honest depiction of the person you have to pass sentence on my loving sister Cathy.

Sincerely

Ardell Crump





January 21, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street  
Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

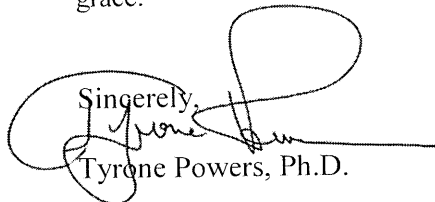
Dear Judge Chasanow:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pugh. I understand that Ms. Pugh is scheduled to appear before you for sentencing on February 27, 2020.

I am a former Maryland State Trooper and a former Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have known Ms. Pugh for close to 20 years. Because of my extensive experience as a state and federal law enforcement investigator and having been involved in the successful prosecution of career criminals of all sorts, I believe that I am a good judge of content and character.

Despite the recent, unfortunate events that bring Ms. Pugh before you, Ms. Pugh has unselfishly and faithfully served the citizens of this nation, Maryland, and more specifically, the citizens of Baltimore City. I have heard her compassionate thoughts, hopes and plans to make Baltimore a safe and better city. She has lamented over the pain of so many. Throughout my years of knowing Ms. Pugh, I have observed her sincere and effective efforts to help increase the life chances for disadvantaged people from all walks of life – especially for youths who live daily with a sense of hopelessness. She has worked diligently to guide them away from a life of crime and steer them towards real and tangible opportunities. I have observed her cry when young people went astray, lost their lives or lost their freedom to the harsh realities of prison. Even after resigning from office, even in her state of regret and mental and physical distress – she has remained concerned about others. She remains haunted day and night by the pain and misfortune of so many people. Having been a public servant for over two decades, she remains dedicated to making people's lives better. Catherine Pugh still wants to be and can be a significant part of the solution in our city and in our communities.

Without reluctance, hesitation or reservation, I respectfully ask that in your deliberations, consider my positive regards for Ms. Pugh. Please weigh her entire service to the public. Catherine Pugh has led a vast and purposeful life. And undoubtedly like so many others, she deserves some expression of grace.

Sincerely,  
  
Tyrone Powers, Ph.D.

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street  
Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow:

My name is W. Paul Coates. I have been a Baltimore business owner for the last forty five years. I am a book publisher and printer, and I am also a friend of Catherine Pugh. I know Catherine to be an awesome human being, and a woman who has for most of her life lived a life of service and giving to others.

Her life of elected public service is preceded by a life of community service. I've always known her as an advocate for people who are less fortunate than others. She is, and always has been, addicted to volunteerism. She has worked on the boards of city, county and state nonprofits, all at the same time.

Catherine is an exceptional citizen who grew of age when Black people advocated in this city and across the country for social and economic parity. While some saw that goal in narrow, limited ways, Catherine always projected these goals as beneficial for all segments of our community. She sought out ways to bridge the gap in our city between Blacks, Whites, and other communities. She worked with labor organizations and big business in the same way. She took on social issues seeking solutions that brought change and betterment.

Her work and vision for *Healthy Holly* was like that. Early on, she shared with me the potential she saw in solving childhood health issues. She committed herself to introducing healthy alternatives for children at birth. She saw this as a way to eliminate diseases like obesity and other illnesses that plague our children. She saw lives being saved and medical dollars being redirected to other life-saving measures. *Healthy Holly* became her passion and she began sharing that passion with the world through the books she published. I was an early consultant to her, and helped with design and marketing ideas for her books. My company printed the first 250 prototype copies of the book. I also helped her work out pricing for the series and made suggestions on where to obtain the best prices for her printing needs. In hindsight, I wish that I had helped more, giving structure and organization to her publishing efforts. While Catherine was a model community advocate, and a successful public servant who introduced and supported many laws and resolutions benefiting the people of Baltimore City and the state of Maryland; she was, and I mean this with all due respect, a lousy publisher, with an inadequate structure to support the books she published. Much of her trouble stems from this fact.

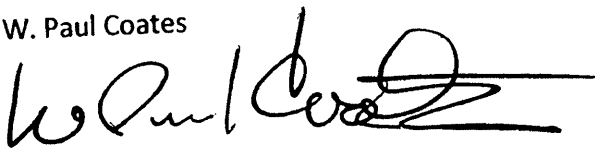
Catherine has pled guilty and accepted responsibility for criminal acts. Some, if not all, could have been avoided if the proper structure was in place to support her or warn against her poor judgement.

Unfortunately, as a human being she made mistakes. Tragically, her errors have cost her the things she valued most, the trust of her community, and the "dream job of her life" - mayor of Baltimore, the city she has always loved. She continues to be vilified by local, national and international media, shunned by former colleagues, and made the subject of bitter jokes. She has been marked with a shame that obscures her decades of service to others which will remain a tarnish on her legacy for the rest of her life.

All of this has taken a toll on the Catherine Pugh I once knew. Gone is the once vital, and ready for all obstacles Catherine. That person immediately left once all this turmoil began. The first five months of her ordeal was marked by endless crying and self-anger that kept her exhausted and in bed; eating little and sleeping less. Your Honor, during that time I watched over her almost daily, she made fast friends with failure and disappointment. Her biggest disappointment has been that she failed the citizens of Baltimore. She continues to punish herself, and seems to not understand the value in "forgiving oneself first." Only recently, within the last two months have I seen some change for the better. That change is reflected in her gaining enough strength to attend religious services, and hosting small meetings with neighbors and friends. During those meetings, she has expressed acceptance of her guilt and apologized to those present for her errors. Her attendance at religious services have been healing and a respite from the constant media barrage which vilifies her still. At church and among friends, her healing has been aided by forgiveness, acceptance and an expectation that she will recover from this series of wrong acts and return, not as "Mayor Pugh," but as Catherine Pugh, the consummate community contributor.


On behalf the many people in our community who have benefited and are inspired by Catherine Pugh, even with her mistakes, I ask that when weighing a just outcome for Catherine, you consider that at 70 years of age, she still has a lot of energy and initiatives and goodness to share with our community. Many of us believe that a benefit could actually come from her future service to nonprofit and/or church-related organizations. The heads of several organizations that I have spoken with are eager to tap into Catherine's experience and expertise. My request is that as you weigh all options for sentencing, you give strong consideration to a plan for home detention and service to her community.

W. Paul Coates



Black Classic Press



Eric Addison  


February 12, 2020

The Honorable Judge Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court  
c/o Steve Silverman

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I met Catherine Pugh in Baltimore City in 1981, when she was publisher of a weekly newspaper she had founded named *African American News & World Report*. Catherine ("Cathy") was only four years out of Morgan State University then, having earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration there, while also working multiple jobs on and off campus to pay her own way through school.

I had recently returned home to Baltimore from California, where I'd spent nearly three years working in rather menial jobs and ineffectively pursuing my dream of being a published creative writer. I had graduated from an Ivy League school, Yale University, in 1978, and had my B.A., but I was still struggling to find a purpose. Catherine Pugh helped me find it. I can't overstate her importance in my life.

In her low-paying (often "no-paying") position at *African American News & World Report* (AANWR), Catherine provided a safe space for numerous aspiring journalists, writers, photographers and graphic artists to grow their skills and experience in a labor of love. Many of us, myself included, later moved on to build our careers with what we had learned at AANWR, often with Catherine's help. I have made my living — and supported my family — as a full-time writer and editor now for more than 20 years, and I still live in Baltimore.

As her copyeditor at AANWR, and in other projects in later years after the newspaper had closed, I got to know Catherine's thought processes well. They were revealed in her rough drafts: sometimes subpar on the grammatical details but always A+ in the concept. She was and is a "big picture" person, a visionary. Her greatest strength as a leader, as I saw it, was her ability to bring people together in a great cause and help us see our own ability to improve things, our power to make a positive change.

Her newspaper reflected her incredible spirit of optimism and positivity, and to her former employees at AANWR, that is who she is. Where others saw nothing but problems in Baltimore City — in race relations, in economic opportunity, in economic inequality, etc. — Catherine saw obvious solutions, such as making ways for black and white citizens to get to know each other. And she encouraged us, often again resistance, to look for solutions likewise. Her work

reflected her world view, and as decades passed, I began to see the positive change she had envisioned, and I slowly accepted the wisdom.

When Catherine decided to go into politics, I honestly feared for her ability to survive. I couldn't see how such a good, trusting and ethical person would be able to succeed in what I saw as an often sordid and backbiting world. But again, as time passed, I got to see how she used the same quiet strengths she showed at AANWR to make improvements in the broader community.

I remember a conversation I had with her about 12 years ago. I was doing some writing for a political consultant, a friend, and Catherine questioned me about his ethics and whether he was focused on truth or only on winning. That let me know she was still the Catherine Pugh I had known.

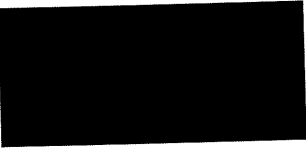
Catherine Pugh still has much to give to Baltimore City. I beseech the court for leniency for her in this sentencing, so that she can continue the good work she has been doing for so long.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Addison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Addison

Drake E.J. Winkey



Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney  
6500 Cherrywood Lane  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

RE: Catherine Elizabeth Pugh

Dear Judge Chasanow:

Ms. Pugh has many titles, politician, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and businesswoman. To me, she is more than those titles she is a neighbor friend and most importantly she is family. I have known Ms. Pugh since early 1996. When my family moved into the home directly across the street. Since a child, she has constantly encouraged me to do my best and continue to pursue higher education. She always made me feel I could accomplish anything if I committed to hard work.

Throughout my life, Ms. Pugh has always been someone I looked up to. As a child, she would often allow us to come along to fancy events and galas. I remember my sister and I sitting in the door of our home waiting for her to come in from work. When she was running for the city council, my sister and I being the only children in fancy dinners goofing off and Ms. Pugh not being embarrassed but embracing our curiosity. My first job as a teenager was cutting her grass. When I look back on it, I did not do a great job, but she kept me doing it because it was important for me to understand the power of entrepreneurship and honest work, and that was more important than her having the best-looking lawn in the neighborhood. Ms. Pugh has always been a selfless servant for the state of Maryland and the city of Baltimore, not because of the things she has done on a major scale but because she has always thought about the little people, the people that others might think to be insignificant. An example of this is when she was looking to create legislation to regulate the licensing of mopeds and scooters, she came to me a 17-year-old high school student and asked my opinion because she knew that the change in the law would directly affect me. When it was time for me to go to college, she helped me to secure multiple scholarships and continued to check up on me once I left for school. I could go on and on about how Ms. Pugh has been in my corner and in the corner of countless other people in this city but the one thing I just really want you to understand is that she is an amazing person and an asset to the communities in which she has served.



Judge Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow

February 1, 2020

Page 2

In closing, I cannot say I am not disappointed at the decisions she has made however Mrs. Pugh has consistently stood by my side, and now it is my turn to stand by her. She is family and I do believe family should support each other no matter the circumstance. I hope this letter allows you to see a different side and understand the type of positive effect she has on the lives she encounters. I also hope that by you showing any sign of leniency that you see this not only as a blessing to her but also to those closest to her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drake E.J. Winkey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Drake E.J. Winkey  
Neighbor and Friend

Piccola L. Winkey

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney  
6500 Cherrywood Lane  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

RE: Catherine Elizabeth Pugh

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I am writing this letter in reference to the character I have seen and experienced in Catherine Pugh. Catherine has been a neighbor and friend to myself and family for over 24 years. During those years, I have watched how she encouraged my two older children as well as many others to achieve higher education and goals. Catherine has even encouraged me to complete my cosmetology course towards my final years working for the state of Maryland. Catherine is one of the most compassionate and humble people I know. She encourages children as well as adults to push themselves to be the best version of themselves.

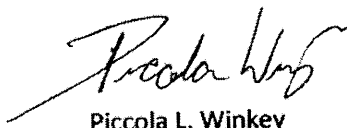
As her neighbor (who lived directly across the street from her) I was able to watch how much Catherine loved the city of Baltimore. A few years ago, I would see her leave out every day for her daily run. I noticed she did not have any earbuds, so I offered her a pair, she replied "no thanks, I like to think when I run throughout the city".

In the 24 years of knowing Catherine, I have cried on her shoulders for many life adversities. On July 31, 2002, I gave birth to my youngest daughter. When my daughter was born, she was diagnosed having down syndrome. I was devastated, causing me to fall into a deep depression. After being discharged from the hospital, Catherine visited me bearing gifts and words of encouragement. A few weeks later, Catherine rallied all the neighbors to have a block party to introduce the new baby. This is the type of kindness she not only had for me, but many others.

Catherine always took time out of her very busy schedule to listen to my concerns. I remember talking to her about my concerns of my daughter's bus aides. After listening to me, she drafted a bill that was later made into a law.

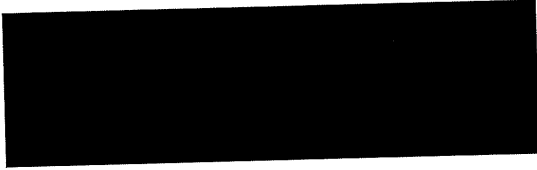
As Catherine's friend and neighbor, I hope that this letter serves as a small reflection of how wonderful of a person she is. How much she enriches those lives that she encounters.

Sincerely,



Piccola L. Winkey  
Neighbor and Friend

Bruce Howard Williams



Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

RE: Character Reference Letter for Catherine E. Pugh  
Dear Judge Chasanow:

I am writing this Character Reference Letter on behalf of my close friend Catherine Pugh. I write this letter to attest to Catherine's good character and long-standing dedication to her community and to society. Her current situation stands in strong contrast to her otherwise exemplary life and work.

Catherine and I have been close friends since 1992 when we were both in the year-long Greater Baltimore Community Leadership Class. At that time, Catherine was President of her media company, and I was an executive for the IBM Corporation. The GBC class exposed us to many opportunities and challenges of Baltimore's economy, employment, human services, public safety and health care systems. After one of our coffee meetings, Catherine started asking, "How can I make a difference to help Baltimore address the challenges facing many of its citizens." I personally think it was sometime during the year in our GBC class, where she found her calling for public service.

In 2018, I joined Catherine's Staff at City Hall, and to no surprise to me, the key initiatives her staff worked on reflected many of the things Catherine talked about doing to improve outcomes for Baltimore City. For example: focusing on African American Men, Senior Citizens, Crime Reduction, and Grass Root Community Organizations. This is what my friend Catherine has done her entire time in public service, take action! She has a heart of gold, caring, committed, dedicated and is a humanitarian.

Hon. Deborah K. Chasanow

Character Reference Letter of Catherine E. Pugh

I witnessed firsthand one frigid morning, while driving to a meeting with the Mayor, when she spotted a child standing on a street corner and this child was still on that same corner when we left the meeting. She asked the driver to stop, got out of the car to speak with the child. She reached into her purse to give him some money and then called human services to assist the child and his family. She had tears in her eyes after meeting with the child, wondering what can be done to prevent situations like this. She is a very spiritual person!

Catherine has shown a steadfast and resolute intent to move past this unfortunate situation, of her own making, in a constructive manner. Catherine takes full responsibility for her current situation and her role in bring it about. She has prayed, and she is very remorseful about her actions that bring her before the court in this matter.

Finally, I hope the court will take into consideration all the good work my friend, Catherine Pugh has contributed to the Baltimore community in her 30 years in public service. Given this is Catherine's first and only time before the court, I hope you can grant her leniency.

Sincerely,

Bruce H Williams



The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow

U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow,

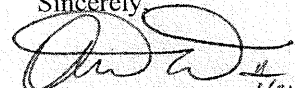
My name is Atiba Wise II. I met Ms. Pugh in December 2015, casually while working at MICA as a security guard. At the time, Ms. Pugh was a Senator. Ms. Pugh took interest in me, hoping that I wouldn't be the statistic of an average young black male from Baltimore. Ms. Pugh inquired about my future, asking me what I wanted to do as a career? I told Ms. Pugh I was interested in becoming a Baltimore City Police Officer. Ms. Pugh encouraged me to take the civil service test. I did and I passed. I continued to take the physical agility test, psychological exam, polygraph test and background investigation. In August 2016, I was hired as a Police Trainee. I worked hard and diligently throughout the academy. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 I was awarded the position, Police Officer.

It was because of Ms. Pugh that I got the position. She not only guided me through this hard process, but she dedicated her time working with me. Ms. Pugh may have made a mistake but investing in me isn't one. Since I've been working for Baltimore City Police Department, I've assisted the Fiscal Unit with making payroll more efficient. While in field training, I helped rescue my Field Training Officer. While on a routine traffic stop, a car speeding down North Ave struck my Field Training Officer. I immediately called for assistance, blocked off North Ave, rerouted traffic and controlled the scene. I also was accommodated for helping save several lives in the Mount Street house fire. Finally, I've helped the department with its recruitment efforts and recruited 12 officers working patrol.

This is not about me; this is about Ms. Pugh, who gave a poor black boy an opportunity. An opportunity that has changed so many lives in the past 3 years. An opportunity to show the good in people and spread love amongst a city that is full of hate and destruction. I am who I am because of Ms. Pugh. I will not give up because she taught me what it is to fight for what is right. Sure, she has flaws but haven't we all? I believe no one mistake is worse than the next persons. Ms. Pugh is devastated. She's been sitting in her home, distraught and disappointed in her actions since the allegations came out. I've witnessed it. Ms. Pugh understands that she's made her mistake and she must face the consequences. I just hope and pray that you reduce her sentence. Ms. Pugh will be 70 this year and she's not in the best of health to withstand a long stay in prison.

Ms. Pugh has encouraged me to go back to college and graduate. She also wishes to see me promoted within the police force. I have already started studying for my Sergeant's Exam and will soon be enrolling in college. I hope to be able to see Ms. Pugh again someday as she deserves to witness my accomplishments. I set out to do it within the next few years. I would be devastated if she wasn't able to do so. Ms. Pugh is someone who saw potential in me, supported me, guided me and ultimately took me under her wing as a mentee to show me the right way; to do things correctly and ethically. Please find it in your heart to spare this woman a second chance.

Sincerely

  
Atiba Wise II 1/30/20

Dear Honorable Judge Chasanow.

I am in prayer that this letter will reach you well. I am writing to you with a very heavy and troubled heart concerning our beloved ex-mayor Catherine Pugh. I pray that leniency will be given as it relates to the sentencing of this woman who is, by all means, a very compassionate and caring human-being.

As a local activist and someone who truly cares for the betterment of humanity, I have been blessed to know Ms. Pugh for many years. I could say without a doubt that if she had never been elected to any office, she would have worked just as tirelessly in trying to bring change to this city in a positive manner.

I am not overlooking nor trying to justify the mistakes she has made. However, I could mention so many deeds of goodwill this woman has done and not just for myself but for so many others. Personally, I can see no justice in sending this woman to prison, she has suffered physically and mentally in a never-ending manner.

If it was not for the restriction of time, I would write so much more. Not my personal time but respecting your time Honorable Judge. However, I will point to a very personal matter that the former Mayor has done for myself. I am highlighting this particular time and not that I can't point to other times.

My wife Yetty Goodin passed away on May 27, 2018, and while she was in Mercy Hospital dying from cancer, I called the "Mayor" just asking that she could send flowers to my wife. She did not send flowers but what she did was to personally come to the hospital twice and each time she brought flowers and spent time with my wife while she lay on her death bed. I will be touched forever by such an act of kindness and concern.

I have pointed this incident out to just say if she was able to take time out of her schedule to do much for me and my wife, I could only imagine the time and concern she has given to others. I could point to other matters of love and concern that this woman has shown for myself as well as others.

As her tenure of "Mayor," this woman stayed up and cried many nights trying to find all the right solutions and trying to put all the players together that would turn this city in the right direction. Yes, she has made some mistakes that will be with her forever. However, to send this woman to prison will only further her sufferings and those of us who love and respect her.

I am asking that the courts will look at her merits of good work and that what I and others will offer will be considered. I am thanking you in advance and if at all, there is anything to ask of myself please do not hesitate. I could be reached at [REDACTED] I will close as I opened, praying that leniency will be offered and considered.

Respectfully,

William "Bill" Goodin

DENISE DeLEAVER



January 17, 2020

Judge Deborah K. Chasanow

6500 Cherrywood Lane

Suite 400

Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Dear Judge Chasnow:

I am writing you on behalf of my long time friend Catherine E. Pugh. I understand that Catherine is scheduled to appear before you on February 27, 2020. I have known Catherine for more than 35 years meeting her at a business seminar and we have maintained a close personal relationship throughout these many many years. I sold Catherine her first home in 1988 in the Ashburton community and she and I have worked together on our neighborhood board and on many other business and civic organizations. Catherine and I have gone Christmas caroling in our community. I have worked the election polls on numerous occasions, stood on street corners, handed out literature doing this for my friend running for whatever office at that time. Catherine is the godmother of my son and we have shared numerous Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays together.

Catherine is a very thoughtful and giving person always looking to bring out the best in others. I know Catherine has pled guilty to said charges but this really does not display her good judgement and integrity. Catherine really cares about people, sometimes she cares too much about others to her own detriment. I know she cares for others as I was going through a bout with cancer and even though she was running the city and being extremely busy she always

took time out to call to see if I was ok and if I needed anything. Catherine gives unselfishly to her family, friends and to Baltimore. She is a very honorable woman who through this ordeal has suffered and is still suffering over this personal pain and anguish which will follow her through the rest of her life. Please take into consideration all of her public works, time, commitment and energy Catherine has given to her beloved Baltimore City.

Once again, I hope you take all of this under advisement when you contemplate her sentence on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February and consider giving her mercy and leniency.

Thank you,

Denise DeLeaver



Judge DeborahK. Chasanow

6500 Cherrywood Lane Suite 400

Greenbelt, MD: 20770

Judge Chasanow:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter in support of Catherine Pugh. My name is Ocola Keelen. I reside at 8604 Lucerne Road, Randallstown, MD. I am submitting this letter because I know that you have an important decision to make concerning the future of Catherine Pugh. One of the things stated by Catherine pertaining to this case is that she takes full responsibility for all that has led to this day and anything that has her name on it. She has suffered mentally, physically, and emotionally. She is very remorseful as she continues to express her desire to be the best person she can be.

I have known Catherine Pugh for 50 years. She has always been someone who genuinely cared about improving the lives of our children.

Ms. Pugh has supported her family, friends and community unselfishly giving to meet needs without hesitation or regard for her own being. She has focused special emphasis on children and economic equality. With the intention of educating the Black Community, she founded the African American News and World Report in 1976. It was a weekly newspaper that informed the Black Community of happenings in the community, the nation, and Africa.

Catherine's devotion to the city of Baltimore has been instrumental long before elective office. She has served on over 24 community boards, giving of her time and talents.

She served as a special editor to the Sunpapers where she produced five special publications a year introducing positive Black people to the community in the areas of Business, History, Health, Entertainment and Professionals. Through those publications she created the Henry G Parks, Bridging the Gap Award to present to the city a Black person and White person that worked to improve the economic gap in the Black and White community.

Catherine has dedicated much of her life to improving the lives of our children. The FISH OUT OF WATER PROJECT that she spearheaded raised a million dollars and provided instruments for our children and helped to wire the classrooms.

As mayor she made Baltimore City Community College free so that underprivileged children could be afforded higher education.

She also started the Baltimore Marathon 20 years ago and it continues to have an annual impact on our city of nearly 40 million dollars a year giving away hundreds of thousands to local charities.

Finally, through her efforts Baltimore has more opportunities zones (44) than any other city in the nation. She also created the NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT INVESTMENT FUND with 52 million dollars by not selling city garages but leasing them, which has grown to nearly 100 million dollars and is targeted to jump start and expand development in our underinvested neighborhoods like Park Heights, Sandtown, Oldtown, and Druid Heights.

Even though it is a difficult decision, I am praying that you would please consider being merciful to Catherine Pugh. I know that she genuinely has a heart and soul for the people in spite of some bad judgements that do not reflect the true character of the person that I know her to be.

Respectfully submitted,

Ocola Keelen

January 31, 2019

Dear Judge Deborah K. Chasanow,

I have known Catherine Pugh for almost 6 years. She represented my neighborhood as a Senator and I served in the Mayor's cabinet as Director of the Mayor's Office of Sustainable Solutions. This was an office she created which was responsible for not just collecting performance data but bringing the city's agencies together to reduce violence through neighborhood revitalization and mandating that the agencies work collaboratively to provide immediate support to our most underserved communities. I know her as a fierce champion of our city and admire her for always speaking out against unfair treatment and service to Baltimore's neighborhoods.

Everyone knows that a mayor has a difficult role with long days and is challenged with being an operational leader, politician and ceremonial leader but it is not usually expected that a mayor will take personal interest in the many people she encounters daily. I saw her at 7 in the morning directing the city's agencies and late in the evening helping young people she met on the streets of our city. She mentored and took care of several young people who were suffering on the corners of Baltimore. It was incredible to me that the Mayor of the largest city in Maryland could still find time to bring food and clothes to someone. I saw her pick up individuals take them to her home, offer support and connect them with mentors and counselors. I soon learned that as a part of her cabinet that this should be my job too and I followed her example by counseling and supporting a young woman back from addiction, unemployment and homelessness.

Working with Catherine Pugh changed my life. I learned a valuable lesson in how a public servant should connect directly with individuals not just from an office in City Hall or at a town hall meeting but on the corners and in the alleys. Since leaving City Hall I see a woman who is remorseful, apologetic and still committed to helping those in need around her. I am a witness to her generosity, compassion and impact. Please consider how she has dedicated her life to help those who need it the most.

Sincerely,

Kendra Parlock



Rev. Rhonda S. Boozer-Yearly

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court Judge  
c/o Steve Silverman, Attorney at Law

**Re: Catherine E. Pugh**

Dear Judge Deborah K. Chasanow:

I have known Catherine Pugh, as an acquaintance, sorority sister, and former church member, for over 20 years. I was troubled and, quite honestly, shocked to learn of the recent charges, as I have known Ms. Pugh to be an upstanding citizen, and a woman of faith, with an abiding love for her community. It is for this reason, that I am pleased to write a letter of support. While I fully understand the seriousness of this matter, I hope that the court will show some leniency.

I have had the opportunity to watch Ms. Pugh grow and evolve, over the years, from taking a fledgling media ministry, at a local mega-church, to a state-of-the-art ministry and into a well-respected business woman and politician. She's made a significant impact in the State of Maryland, as a senator, and in the City of Baltimore as mayor. She loves her community, and the effect of the good that she has done, is still being felt. As a state senator, Ms. Pugh collaborated with the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) to establish the Baltimore Design School, a middle-high, college-prep school offering specialized study in the fields of architecture, fashion, and graphic design to inner-city students, who may not have, otherwise, had such an opportunity. The school is still going strong. As mayor, Ms. Pugh instituted the Mayor's Scholars Program, making tuition at Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) free for recent graduates of Baltimore City high schools. My children started calling her "Aunt Cathy," not by any prompting from me, or my husband, after seeing her campaign ads all over the city of Baltimore and having warm interactions with her. Children are some of the best judges of character. There are times, however, that even at the height of our success, and in the midst of our zeal to be the best, that we make wrong decisions. Ms. Pugh is no different. It is then that, as Christians, our faith reminds us that we must repent, turn from our wicked ways, and receive the ultimate forgiveness and redemption from an all wise and loving God, who doesn't condone our actions, but loves us no less in spite of them. As a woman of faith, Ms. Pugh has done that.


By pleading guilty, and forgoing a trial, Ms. Pugh has taken responsibility for her actions and has shown that she is ready to continue to grow beyond this. I know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that she is sorry for some of the mistakes that she's made and the negative impact those decisions have had on the lives of others. That is a "sentence" that she will have to live with for the rest of her life. Despite the current charges that Ms. Pugh is facing, I still find her to be an honorable individual, a valuable member of the community, and a good human being. I am hoping that she is given the opportunity to move on from this, with the least number of impediments possible, and that this letter will be taken into consideration as sentencing is deliberated.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Rhonda S. Boozer-Yearly*

Rev. Rhonda S. Boozer-Yearly

January 18, 2020



The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street  
Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD

Dear Judge Chasanow:

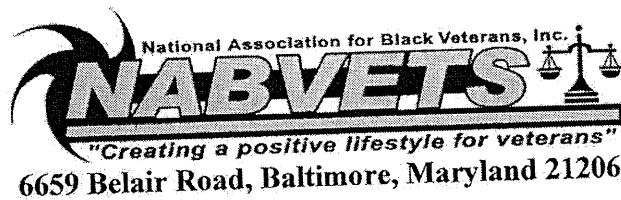
I am writing this letter on behalf of Catherine Pugh. I am writing it as a comrade-in-arms to Ms Pugh who I have watched serve the Baltimore community and its citizens for at least 40 years. In that time, I have never seen her commit a single dishonest act, though I am aware of countless life changing acts of kindness done quietly beyond the glare of public scrutiny. She has always modeled impeccable integrity, and that is what makes what she is charged with so disconcerting - it is totally out of character; it makes her look like a person of low morals with criminal intent.

From personal experience, as I am sure you are aware, human beings make mistakes for a variety of different reasons. Ms Pugh's mistake has landed her in a court of Law devastated, publicly humiliated, and in deep, unyielding contrition for the act that has brought her there. She has no criminal history and no prior indications of criminal behavior, and her record of public service has been phenomenally consistent and stellar enough to prompt the people of Baltimore to elect her mayor.

Given the particulars set forth in this communication, I ask your honor to be merciful in your judgement and sentencing of Ms Pugh, and show her the same compassion she has shown others, in this time of personal tribulation; I cannot begin to describe to you the deep personal hurt, sorrow, remorse and repentance she is experiencing in correspondence to this event.

Sincerely

Avon J. Bellamy  
Retired Former Director,  
The Maryland State Commission on Medical Discipline



February 4, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U. S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street, Suite 2600  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow:

My name is Clarence Davis, often times referred to as "Tiger." I retired from the Maryland House of Delegates in 2006 and from the faculty of Morgan State University in 2013.

During my graduate school years at Morgan in the early 1970s, I and many other veterans returning from various military expeditions at home and abroad found ourselves shunned and disparaged because of our patriotism. We organized a Veterans Club and began to positively assert our presence on campus. One person who rendered friendship, aid and comfort was Catherine.

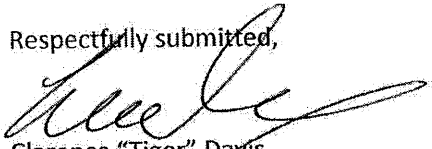
Soon after graduation, Catherine created a vehicle for fresh dialogue on community problems by publishing the African American News and World Report, which allowed non journalists to engage in problem solving by presenting other opinions. One of our MSU Vet Club leaders who had been promoted by Catherine and elected Student Government President suggested that I write a column. Writing this column, and Catherine's inspiration, resulted in a rebirth of my commitment to community and subsequent election to the Maryland House of Delegates.

Soon thereafter, Catherine pursued electoral politics. She brought something special and different to the political arena. She was a thinker and worker, with vision and commitment. She saw the need for a Baltimore Marathon; I did not see the advantages to the African American Community. Her mission was to lift up the City and the people would rise with the city.

Your Honor, I could go on and on discussing Catherine's innovations, qualities and ideas for improving life within Baltimore City. Her value to people and community is awesome. She does not fear being on the frontline combatting decadence. She inspires those around her. We, and the City, need her.

I encourage your consideration for Catherine and pray that you favorably respond to my plea for affective utilization of her skills and commitment as opposed to incarceration. If punishment is paramount, there can be no greater punishment than the pain she is currently enduring.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarence Davis', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Clarence "Tiger" Davis  
Chairman, Government and Public Affairs Command

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street  
Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I have known Catherine Pugh as a good friend and colleague for over 25 years. I was troubled and surprised to hear about her case, because she has always been an upstanding, righteous and exceptional person. Throughout the years that I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Pugh and working with her, she has always demonstrated a penchant to be a very trustworthy, reliable and decent individual with impeccable character who would go the extra mile to serve the needs of others, support her colleagues and volunteer her time unselfishly. Moreover, due to the fact that a lot of my work, over the years, has been directed at addressing the life-affirming needs of underserved youth and families, Ms. Pugh never hesitated to support my efforts and she also served as a committed and caring mentor to a number of the young women that participated in my program. Thus, it is for this reason that I am totally proud to write this character reference letter for Catherine Pugh. I truly understand the seriousness of this matter; however, it is my profound hope that the court will show some leniency.

While it is true that Ms. Pugh has made some unfortunate decisions, thus resulting in this case, I, and so many others throughout the community, know her as a very principled and caring member of the community. And, even though I was surprised to hear about the charges leveled against Ms. Pugh, she has shown remorse, suffered tremendous pain and shared with me and others feelings of sorrow, shame, self-accusation, and has accepted responsibility for committing the crimes she has been charged with.

I am convinced that as Ms. Pugh moves forward, she will emerge as a better person, a more giving person and a more serving-centered individual. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that the court will take this character reference letter for Ms. Pugh into consideration at the hour of sentencing. Despite the current case and charges against Ms. Pugh, she is - without question - a remarkable person, a valuable member of the community and a committed and caring public servant who should be given a second chance, because she still has so much to give back to the community and to share with others.

Sincerely,

*Richard A. Rowe*

Richard A. Rowe



January 27, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street, Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I am writing to you in support of Catherine E. Pugh, who I understand will be appearing before on February 27, 2020.

I have known Catherine for nearly forty years and have always been impressed with her commitment and dedication to public service.

As a leader of a healthcare workers union, I had opportunities to work with her when she was in the Baltimore City Council on issues that helped improve working conditions and the lives of nursing home and hospital workers. As president of the Maryland and District of Columbia AFL-CIO, I had the opportunity to work with her on bills at the State level to: amend our early voting procedures; expand our democracy by restoring voting rights to parolees; keep our citizens safe from certain pesticides; ensure gender equality in wages; pass Maryland's higher minimum wage law; and the list could go on.

I believe that she continues to share that same commitment and dedication to public service today. I ask you to please consider all the good that she has done in her life, when you consider her sentencing.

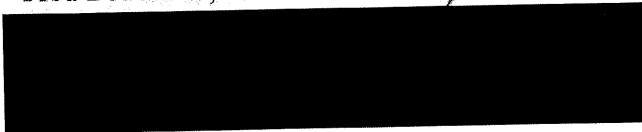
She has admitted her guilt for her transgressions. She has already suffered public embarrassment, much physical and mental anguish; and has repented.

Please allow her the most expedient opportunity to again make the kind of useful contributions to society that she is capable of.

I thank you for your kind consideration.



Fred D. Mason, Jr.



Andrey L. Bundley, Ed.D.



January 29, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street  
Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow:

With great sincerity, I write this letter on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pugh who is scheduled to appear before you for sentencing on February 27, 2020. It is my hope that you will consider the whole life of Catherine Pugh and in your wisdom, consider all of her value to the communities that she has served over her lifetime and continue to serve.

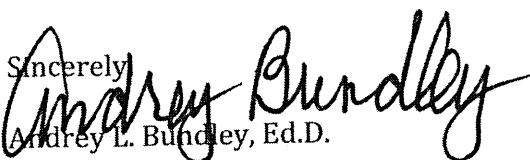
I have served as an educator in the Baltimore City Public School system for over 25 years – both as a principal and as an administrator. I have seen the pain and heart ache of countless children and their families. Despite my earnest attempts to help, I have seen many of them fall into the depths of despair with no expectation of return or revival. Many of them sink to these pits because of bad decisions that were avoidable. Their choices were short sighted and the consequences dire – to them and to others. But I have also seen far more people (children and adults) scratch and struggle up from these depths and, against tremendous odds, eventually become responsible, valuable human beings. They evolve to new personhood, capable of making good, healthy decisions for the rest of their lives. I therefore, consider myself somewhat an expert in human character, resilience and recovery.

I have known Ms. Pugh for nearly twenty years and without reservation, do vouch for her character. She has demonstrated repeatedly an unselfish desire to help people. Ms. Pugh was brave enough to take on the challenges of opening a Charter school in Baltimore City. Her interest was far from self-serving. Because of her commitment to improving educational opportunities, Ms. Pugh was the first in the state of Maryland to offer free community college to graduating students who had only a narrow vision beyond high school. "We can do better," I would often hear her say regarding the life chances of children and their families. This is not the practices or the heart and soul of an individual who is indifferent about others.

Unfortunately, Ms. Pugh has made mistakes and errors in judgement. But who among us can claim that they have not? Some bad decisions lead to unforgivable, human tragedies. But most us, like Ms. Pugh, make the kind of regrettable decisions that do not. Ms. Pugh's work, knowledge and expertise are of utmost value to our community. Her body of positive work and deeds were and are impactful. Her pluses far outweigh any minus.

Please examine all of Catherine Pugh. Humbly, I ask, Judge Chasanow, that her immeasurable good deeds be weighed heavily on your scale of fairness.

Sincerely,

  
Andrey L. Bundley, Ed.D.

## TRAVIS WINKEY STUDIO

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February 1, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
101 West Lombard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow:

I am more than honored to write this character letter on behalf of Mayor Catherine Pugh. I have known Mayor Pugh for over 50 years. Her character and love of people, has been one of her most outstanding characteristics. I had the pleasure of meeting Mayor Pugh, when she first came to my studio and was interested in becoming a model. Her outlook on the desire to entertain led her to be one of my most prominent students.

In her success to pursue bigger and better things, she always managed to entertain the youth in lifting them to higher heights. Mayor Pugh has helped over a thousand youths throughout Baltimore City. She has been a persuasive role model, demonstrating a positive outlook on life, telling our youth "You can be anything that you desire to be, but it will take hard work and determination".

I know without a doubt, that if Mayor Pugh is incarcerated, that it will devastate her to no end. Let her do her time by helping our youth. They need her more than ever now. She has a gift in communicating with them. I do believe she will be very instrumental in helping to cut down on the crime that has overwhelmed our city.

Mayor Pugh's love for Baltimore was something that could not be hidden. I've seen her countless times on T.V., out there in the city doing whatever was necessary to make Baltimore a better and brighter city that any Baltimorean would be proud to say "That's My City and We Love our Mayor."

I know in my heart, that Mayor Pugh still has a lot to offer. I don't know what God has in store for her, but I know it's good and it's going to be great.

I close by saying, I have been blessed to have shared the love that she bestowed on our city and I wish her nothing but the best. She is a good person and well deserving of her good deeds.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Travis Winkey



January 29, 2020

[REDACTED]

The Honorable Judge Deborah K. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Dear Judge Chasanow,

My name is Paulette Walker Johnson, retired coach and Professor Emeritus, Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. I am writing on behalf of my former classmate, teammate and longtime friend, Catherine Crump Pugh.

I met Cathy during cheerleader tryouts at Morgan State College more than fifty years ago. At that time, she was focused, hardworking and highly motivated. Cathy was also a kind, considerate and cooperative self-starter. Her drive, her dedication and her positive attitude were noteworthy qualities that became the model for our cheerleading squad.

Cathy maintained those same qualities and changed very little over the years. Since leaving Morgan State, her entire life has been dedicated to public service. Her outstanding work ethic, social skills and people oriented leadership style allowed her to accomplish great things for her family, community and her constituents. Cathy has been known to put the health and wellbeing of others before herself. She is an asset to so many and it is my honor to serve as a character reference for her.


Judge Chasanow, Catherine Pugh is a good person with a good heart. In our interactions both professionally and personally, Cathy has always displayed good judgement and integrity. She has my respect and my sincere admiration both as a public figure and as a loyal friend. Please give her your favorable consideration in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

*Paulette W. Johnson*

Paulette Walker Johnson, EdD

Rev. Brenda D. White, M.Div.



January 27, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney

RE: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Judge Chasanow:


I am writing this letter as thirty-five-year resident of Baltimore City and one who has known Catherine for thirty years. I am the beneficiary of her kindness and her encouragement. As a first-generation college graduate and the daughter of sharecroppers and tenant farmers I came to Baltimore in the 1970s seeking a better life. A part of my better life included meeting Catherine in the 1980s at Bethel AME Church where we both, at the time, worshipped. When I heard of her interest of becoming an elected public servant, I did not hesitate to encourage her. Then and now I find Catherine to consistently humble, generous, and kind. Her generosity and kindness are rooted in her willingness to connect persons in need with the information and people who can assist with obtaining resolution. Unbeknownst to Catherine I was present for her 2016 acceptance speech. My support of her is equaled to her compassion for people like me, unknown to the general public and yet committed to working for the good of the greater community.

Likewise, there is much good, transformative good in Catherine. It is my hope and prayer that this honorable court will see her good, recognize her greater potential; and, therefore exercise leniency and take into consideration, the suffering, mentally and physically Catherine has already suffered.

Respectfully,

*Brenda D. White*

Rev. Brenda D. White, M.Div.



Judge Deborah K. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane Suite 400  
Greenbelt,Md 20770  
c/o Attorney Steven Silverman  
201 N.Charles Street Suite 2600  
Baltimore,Md 21201

February 12,2020

Dear Judge Deborah K. Chasanow,

I am writing this recommendation to you with the greatest enthusiasm in support of Catherine Pugh and my desire for you to take into consideration all of her triumphs that she achieved in the support of the city of Baltimore and its citizens. Therefore I highly recommend that she be given the opportunity of leniency in your ruling on her case.

Being a new citizen to the city of Baltimore and newly retired I was working a part-time job with a major retailer this is when I first met Senator Catherine Pugh. She interviewed me for the management position for her fashion boutique. We immediately realized we were on the same accord and passionately enjoyed the fashion industry. During my interview it was clearly apparent that we both understood the retail fashion business and I was hired. It was a wonderful experience before I fully retired and left the boutique.

During that time I found Catherine to be an outstanding individual with a strong character. She has the ability to produce impressive results in a wide variety of areas with her political expertise. As I did my homework on her and was very impressed with her achievements.

It would be a great loss if we the citizens of Baltimore were to be without her positive and true embracement in the welfare of this city, which she always lovingly referred to as "her city". I believe wholeheartedly that Catherine Pugh will remain steadfast in her vision and endeavors for the betterment of this city, our city that is sorely in need of her knowledge, capabilities, strength and guidance.

Finally, in closing again I request of you, in this connection with your wisdom and expertise in such matters to kindly not just earmark but strongly and with an open mind offer leniency in the Catherine Pugh case.

Respectfully,  
Georgina Blair

Argentine S. Craig, PhD

Professor Emerita: Human and Organization Development



The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow

6500 Cherrywood Lane. Suite 400

Greenbelt, MD 20770

Re: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Judge Chasanow,

My lived experience of Catherine E. Pugh spans over fifty years: as her former high school teacher/adviser and current (2020) higher education academic Mentor. Over these years, I have observed and witnessed Catherine's growth and humanistic character development through actions visible on individual, community and systems levels focused on making a positive difference for citizens in the city of Baltimore and the state of Maryland.

Evidence of her many contributions to the city of Baltimore, Catherine has been awarded and presented many Certificates of Appreciation and publically praised for many creative projects: Inner Harbor Fish Sculptor, Marathon, neighborhood community grants and economic development initiatives. All with the intention of doing good. I have seen Catherine reaching out to include the participation of the "hard-to-reach" marginalized groups that our US Census 2020 is mandated to count. She has always extended herself to those "others" in the spirit of diversity and inclusion. If allowed to contribute through "community service" decision, our city and state will benefit greatly.

Finally, I have first-hand knowledge of Catherine's intention to grow from lessons learned based on the value she affirms for education and positive change. Consequently, I appeal to your sense of justice and compassion in affording Catherine E. Pugh the opportunity to contribute community service to the city of Baltimore and the state of Maryland because that is where her heart resides.

Sincerely,

/s/Argentine S. Craig, Professor Emerita: Human and Organization Development.



**MRS. BRENDA H. BURT, PROFESSOR EMERITUS**  
African and African Diaspora Studies, The University of Texas at Austin  
Gordon White Building • 210 West 24th Street • Austin, Texas 78712

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January 25, 2020

Judge Deborah K. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Judge Chasanow:

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts. I met Catherine Crump Pugh in 1969 when we both entered Morgan State College as freshmen. I am originally from Richmond, Va. and Cathy hails from Trevese, Pa. We were roommates, classmates, cheerleaders, bridesmaids in each other's weddings and have maintained communication all these years. Morgan State's Homecoming has always been one of our opportunities to reconnect each year.

I have always been aware of Cathy's zest for a healthy lifestyle not only for herself, but for others as well. I was not surprised when she founded an annual city-wide walk/run opportunity for the Baltimore area and authored a book for our youth on healthy living.

It is my opinion that any malfeasance regarding the production and distribution of the books was not motivated by her heart, but came from a sincere willingness to do something positive for our youth.

Cathy and I have had a long and sincere friendship and it is my belief that she has always been motivated by assisting and service to others than by personal gain.

Thank you for allowing me to share my feelings about Cathy who has done far more positive things in her life time of service.

Sincerely,

Brenda H. Burt, Professor Emeritus



# Quest Dental

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
C/O Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street  
Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow:


I am writing to you on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pugh, who is scheduled to appear before you for sentencing at the end of this month. I have known Ms. Pugh for thirty years. I have always been impressed with her intelligence, professionalism and determination. She has been an innovative thinker and doer and she truly loves the city of Baltimore. She deeply wanted to be mayor out of her desire to transform the city of Baltimore. She worked hard for the city when she was in the state legislature. I was pleased for her when she was finally elected, but also pleased for the city of Baltimore. During her time as mayor, she brought her professionalism, intelligence and determination. She innovated programs to address educational disparity with free tuition to community colleges in Baltimore. She worked towards alleviating the high unemployment issues in low income areas. Many citizens have benefited from Ms. Pugh's service as mayor and as a state legislator.

I ask that Ms. Pugh's years of service be considered when making a decision regarding her sentence.

Sincerely,



Katherine Grant Collier, DDS



January 30, 2020

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

RE: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Honorable Judge Chasanow:

Respectfully:

I am writing to humbly ask for leniency in the sentencing of my dear friend Catherine Pugh.

I have known Catherine Pugh for approximately 50 years. We were fellow students at Morgan State University. My hope is to give you a perspective that shows that Catherine "Cathy" Pugh is more than what has been depicted in the news media and social media.

Cathy has demonstrated in her actions the sacrifices she has made where she has consistently put her community first in efforts to improve the lives of those around her; thus, the creation of the "Healthy Holy" book series. Cathy and I are both aware of the seriousness of the charges, and believe neither of us ever thought that there would be a need for me to write a letter such as this.

I have visited the Baltimore Design School, founded by Cathy and saw the excitement and pride in the students as they described their work. They were actively engaged in sharpening their creativity in fashion design, which is among the many opportunities offered.

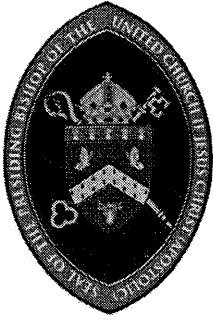
I'm asking the court for mercy in sentencing Cathy. As you are aware Cathy has no criminal record. We have all made errors and Cathy has expressed great remorse in this circumstance and realize the disappointment she has set amongst those in her community. Words cannot express how this ordeal has taken a huge toll on Cathy.

With this said, her contributions to the community, as a citizen, legislator and even Mayor speak volumes. I strongly believe LENIENCY is most the appropriate approach in this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald G. Stansbury", with a stylized, flowing script.

Gerald G. Stansbury



THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

MONROE SAUNDERS, JR., D. MIN.

January 27, 2020

The Honorable Judge Deborah K. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane  
Suite 400  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

To the Most Honorable Judge Deborah K. Chasanow on behalf of Mayor Catherine Pugh I write this letter pleading for merciful consideration of her sentencing in light of her age and my personal assessment of her deep regret and personal disappointment with the decisions she has made.

My father, the late Bishop Monroe Saunders Sr. and my mother Alberta Brockington Saunders over the years had been spiritual advisors and confidants for many who serve in political office. My father was one who the late Mayor and Governor William Donald Schaefer would turn for spiritual direction. Although Catherine knows our family well, she did not have the fortune of the kind of spiritual guidance that brings balance to the many and distractive elements of leadership and power. We all regret that such leadership talent was derailed by personal decisions and influencers that failed to correct regrettable actions.

I have met with Catherine and have seen the enormous weight of shame she bears. She lays blame on herself and deeply regrets the circumstances leading to the calamity of bad decisions. We are advocating for her in order to salvage what can be used for the greater and best benefit of our community.

These are very difficult times and unfortunately the best of who we are or who we can become is obscured in an atmosphere of deceit and selfish pursuits. Redemption of failed people may indeed inspire a community of people to aspire to a better vision for a community torn apart by division and the failure to think more redemptively than judgmentally. My plea your honor is for a redemptive application of justice that would extract not just a punitive sentence, but a redemptive one that would bring a beneficial contribution to our city and to those who are experiencing the depletion of honor and leadership integrity.

United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic)

There are lessons to be learned from failure, both positive and negative. Our appeal is for a positive consideration that can produce the greatest redemptive results for our community and the emerging leaders who need the inspiration of experienced leaders who have a story to tell and wisdom to share. I appreciate your consideration and offer my help in whatever way I can toward redemptive justice for Mayor Pugh and our community.

Thank You for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bishop Monroe Saunders, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Bishop Monroe Saunders, Jr. D.Min.

Senior Pastor, Transformation Ministries of the United Church of Jesus Christ,  
Presiding Bishop of the United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) Inc.



February 4, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Catherine Pugh whom I have known since our undergraduate days at Morgan State University. Since then I have had the opportunity of working with her in various community initiatives that helped to improve the overall quality of life in many neighborhoods in Baltimore City. Her commitment to young people is well documented: establishing mentoring programs, developing school curriculums, female family interventions and training youth for future entrepreneurship opportunities.

I have no intention of minimizing the severity of the offense in this case. Nor do I wish to tell you how to make decisions for which you are charged. Knowing Catherine and her many contributions, I would humbly request a favorable outcome predicated on her overall contributions.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Earl El-Amin', is written over a horizontal line.

Earl El-Amin  
Vice President

**NCIA SERVICES**

Criminal Justice Services  
Youth in Transition  
School  
Adult Career  
Development  
Adult Residential Services  
Business Services  
Jail Suicide Prevention  
Public Policy

*individual focus. community perspective.*

Dale Clark



February 10, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland  
c/o Abigail Ticse, Esq.  
Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White  
201 North Charles Street, Suite 2600  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I am writing to you on behalf of Catherine Pugh. I understand that Catherine is scheduled to appear before you for sentencing in the case United States v. Catherine Elizabeth Pugh on February 27, 2020.

I first met Catherine Pugh around 1991 at Bethel AME Church, where she was head of the media ministry. She is the only person I know that could mobilize a team of volunteers on Tuesday mornings (7:30AM) to field media fulfillment requests. Her enthusiasm, kindness and selflessness is what moved the team to volunteer week after week.

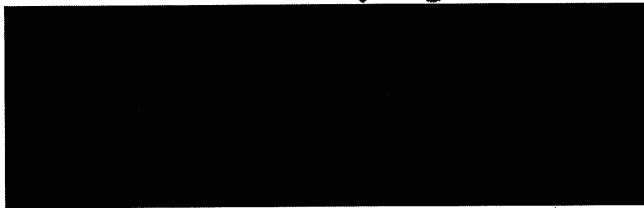
Catherine has always lived a life of service – banker, publisher, media personality, elected official. She has a unique gift of helping us all become better versions of ourselves. We all have missteps in life; but they do not have to define us. I pray that you will consider her years of service and good deeds while deliberating her sentence.

Sincerely,



Dale Clark

Ahmad Onyango



January 26, 2020

Dear Judge Chasanow,

It breaks my heart to be introducing myself to you on an occasion such as this. However, I must appeal to your sense of mercy in the case of my friend and neighbor Catherine Pugh.

I have known Cathy for a number of years and in that time, I have come to hold her in high regard for her personal as well as her professional accomplishments. As Mayor she instituted a number of programs that have had a very positive affect on many communities in our city.

On the morning that her home was raided by FBI tactical officers armed with assault rifles, local TV cameras and IRS agents sent shock waves through our normally quiet community. We are still reeling from that morning.

I like Cathy. I've worked in her campaigns. I have spoken to her about her predicament and I've expressed my disappointment. She has asked for my forgiveness and I have forgiven her.

However, you don't know this kind, caring and giving human being. I think that putting her in prison will not serve any good purpose. Being publicly disgraced has shattered her to her core. She is bowed and broken. Those of us that know her and care about her are helping her to pick up the pieces. I believe that it would be easier to help her recover on the outside than in prison. She has made it clear that she knows that she must atone for what she's done. I ask you to please give her that chance.

I await your decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ahmad Onyango". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Respectfully,  
Ahmad Onyango

January, 31, 2020

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

RE: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I'm writing this letter as a friend for Catherine E. Pugh. Catherine and I have been friends for many years. She is a woman that has inspired me to be the best in everything I do. She has inspired people to dream big and work hard and have opened many doors so we all could have the opportunity to walk through. She has given hope to the hopeless. She has always taken time to listen to people with problems and worked with them to help them solve them. Catherine has always worked towards improving the conditions of the less fortunate not only in the city but the state. Catherine has a good heart and shares love and gives comfort to whoever is in need.

I'm a union member that worked my way up in the union. My job is to make sure that people are treated fairly and respectfully in the work place. I am a voice for the voiceless and bring my experience to upgrade the working conditions of the people I serve.

Today I'm speaking on behalf of my friend. Catherine Pugh has been there for my union and union members from day one. When we had a problem with a company treating the people with disrespect and calling the Mexican and African American workers terrible names, I called Catherine Pugh and set up a meeting with her and my union officers and union members so she could hear their stories. She was in the City Council at the time and she called the company in for a hearing and they found the company guilty of all charges. She let them know that we will not tolerate that type of behavior in Baltimore. She has always shown empathy to people in need of help and support. Catherine Pugh has stepped up for my union on many occasions because she cares for the wellbeing of the family. She has always kept us updated with bills and proposals that would hurt the working people in Maryland and has come to speak to the Joint Board on many occasions. Catherine Pugh is a kind, loving and caring person. In my over thirty years of friendship I have never known her to hurt or mistreat anyone.

Judge Chasanow, I'm asking you to be lenient to Catherine Pugh. I'm available to talk if any further information is needed.

Thank you,

Lena Redmon





February 11, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
**United States District Judge**  
c/o Steven Silverman, Esquire, Attorney at Law

Re: **Catherine E. Pugh**

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I write in support of Ms. Catherine E. Pugh. I respectfully ask that your honor be lenient in sentencing her. I have known Ms. Pugh for almost 30 years; first as a sister church member, where she was active in church ministries, particularly issues affecting women. I also know her as my line sister, where we both participated in membership intake activities for the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 2002. In order to qualify for membership in Delta Sigma Theta, you must demonstrate sustained, significant and substantive community service for which you do not received compensation.

During our membership intake activities, Ms. Pugh was committed to serving citizens in the 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District of Maryland, and made the daily commute from Annapolis to learn -- along with me and 58 other women -- about the history of our founders who were committed to social action, and community service. Ms. Pugh served as President of our line, and led us through community service activities that included a partnership with a transitional housing facility at Renaissance Gardens, a non-profit located next to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's community center. This transitional housing provided an opportunity for young adults to prepare to be independent and contributing members of society.

I have always known Ms. Pugh to be committed to public service. I have always known she carries a deep, and personal sense of responsibility for the City of Baltimore. I have known the weight of making Baltimore a better place was ever present on her mind and did not allow her to rest on her achievements or to sometimes even rest at all.

When she was a member of Baltimore's City Council, I asked her what was her goal as a public servant. That was more than 15 years ago. She replied to be Mayor. The office of Mayor is perhaps one of the most thankless, difficult and challenging jobs in the world. Ms. Pugh could have opted to use her extensive talents in communications and journalism to simply make money. She made a very tough decision to risk her privacy, and expose herself to the world by becoming a public servant.

For the foregoing reasons, I beg of you Judge Chasanow, please show leniency in your sentencing of Ms. Catherine E. Pugh.

Sincerely,



Lora G. Mayo

**Andrew Billingsley, Ph.D.**  
Morgan State University President, 1975-1985

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Ms. Catherine Pugh  
Baltimore, MD

Dear Cathy Pugh,

Amy and I both remember you fondly and with great appreciation when you put your shoulder to the wheel to help us move Morgan State, your alma mater, from College to University status in the mid 1970s.

We have watched you with admiration as you climbed the ladder of public service – always working hard and productively for others.

And now it's our turn. As you marched with us to the State House in times past, it is now our turn to march with you to the Courthouse to help you plead your case.

Sincerely,

Andrew Billingsley      and      Amy T. Billingsley

*Every great dream begins with a dreamer.*

*Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. — Harriet Tubman*

February, 10, 2020  
Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

RE: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow:

I'm a long time resident of Baltimore City, and a friend of Catherine E. Pugh. I'm writing to show my support for her. She has always been available to us and worked hard for her constituents.

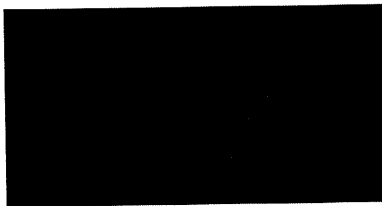
I'm the President of Local 70 of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Joint Board of Workers United and Catherine E. Pugh has been a supporter of our Union and have been on the picket line with us no matter what type of weather we would be having doing the coldest days in winter or the hottest days in summer. She has always supported and sponsored bills that would support workers' rights and workers safety in the workplace.

I'm speaking for my friend to show you how she has been a true friend and supporter. She has always done things to bring finance to Baltimore like the Marathon and the Fish project to raise funds for youth and schools, to name a few.

Honorable Chasanow, I'm asking you to consider all the good things that Catherine E. Pugh has done for the people of Baltimore City and the State of Maryland. If you need more information please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Catherine Knight



FILED  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Louise Johnson, PhD.

2020 FEB 10 A 9:39

CLERK'S OFFICE  
Date February 3, 2020  
AT GREENBELT

BY [Signature] DEPUTY

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Esquire  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Re: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Judge Casanow,

I'm pleased to submit this letter of reference on behalf of Ms. Catherine E. Pugh. I clearly understand the gravity of the matter concerning Ms. Pugh, and the significance of any leniency that may be granted by the Court.

Ms. Pugh and I have an endearing friendship that dates back well over twenty years and I've always held her in high regards. Despite her errors of judgment, my opinion of Ms. Pugh remains a respected one, and I hold my belief that she is truly a good person. I consider Ms. Pugh a concerning and valuable member of the community, and a longtime advocate for humanity as a whole. Unfortunately, faulty decisions made by Ms. Pugh has resulted to this point, for which she expresses deep and sincere remorse over.

I'm asking the Court to please show mercy for my friend and community leader, Ms. Catherine E. Pugh, and I hope this letter of reference may aide the hearts and minds to impose a merciful decision. I'm available for contact and any assistance the Court deems useful.

Sincerely,

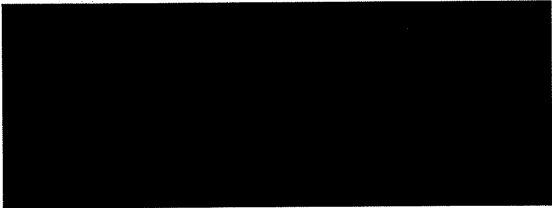
Louise Johnson PhD

LOUISE JOHNSON

[Redacted]

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 2020

**CREATIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICES, INC.**  
Michael Cassell, CRB, CRS, GRI, Broker/ Owner/President  
Real Estate Broker, Appraiser, Consultant & Expert Witness  
Former Chairman: MD Real Estate Commission



2/10/2020

RE: Ms. Catherine Pugh  
Honorable Judge Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Md 20707

Dear Judge Chasanow;

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Catherine Pugh who I have known and respected for several decades. We attended the same College and attend many of the same events and functions. I was even foolish enough to run a 5G race with her in which she finished first for the women and I think I finished last for the men.

During our many encounters I have gotten to know Cathy quite well and I can thoroughly vouch for her impeccable character and abilities. Cathy is a pleasure to work with because her pleasant and positive attitude can make nearly any work seem fun and interesting. She has always been a leader and person to "look up to."

She always seems to go the "second mile" in everything she does and always takes the initiative to make sure her work was done exceptionally well, thoroughly and with the upmost of integrity.


As Mayor of Baltimore, Cathy worked diligently to improve the conditions of Baltimore City and all of its Citizens. She sure had my vote. I have listened to many of her speeches and presentations and watched her develop, the one thing that continues to always come through is her honesty, integrity and a burning desire to help others.

In light of all of her positive service to Baltimore, the State, its citizens and all others that she was able to touch and most importantly, her integrity, we beg and pray that you will be as lenient as possible in her sentencing and certainly hopeful that you do not sentence her to any confinement.

She deserves leniency for all of the positive she has done and continues to do, Please.

Regards; *THANK YOU*  
  
*Mike Cassell, CRB, CRS, GRI*

Michael Cassell CRB, CRS, GRI, CRA  
Former Chairman: MD Real Estate Commission  
Former 3 time President, Real Estate Broker of Baltimore Inc.  
6 year Chairman of Board REEB  
Former Board Member, Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors  
Regional VP, National Society of Appraisers  
Real Estate Broker, Appraiser, Consultant & Expert Witness  
Broker/Owner: CREATIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICES, INC.  
Owner/Principal Appraiser: EXPRESS APPRAISAL SERVICES, INC.



January 31, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Catherine Pugh as a public servant during the 18 years I have lived in Baltimore. I am aware of several public initiatives she has been involved in including one that I was directly attached to that increased job training programs for residents of the Sandtown/Winchester community in West Baltimore.

Catherine more than understands the devastation her actions have caused to Baltimore. She is also capable of making amends for this if given the opportunity. As a professor at Morgan State University, I know she would be perfect for teaching courses in political science at the university level. Imprisoning her for a long period of time would benefit neither her nor the community she loves so much. She can do far more good if given the opportunity to make amends for her actions. She has many good years left and a knowledge of public policy that could benefit young people as well as her peers.

Thank you for considering Catherine's good work on behalf of the Baltimore City community as well as the potential for continued service to its citizens. I sincerely hope that you will take all of this into consideration during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Winbush, Ph.D.

Raymond A. Winbush, Ph.D.



**February 5, 2019**

Judge Deborah k. Chasanow  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Judge Chasanow,


I am writing this letter in support of Catherine Pugh, who will appear before you on February 5, 2020.

I have known Ms. Pugh in a variety of capacities for more than 30 years. I first worked with her as a member of the Ashburton Area Association from 1989 to 1991; we were neighbors and both longtime residents of the Ashburton community. I also worked with her when she took on the responsibility of City Councilperson in 1999, while I was employed in the Mayor's Office. I worked with her again when she won a seat as in the Maryland State Senate, where she served from 2007 to 2016; this was during my tenure as an Assistant Secretary in the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs. Due to the nature of my work, I knew Ms. Pugh and her staff well, and interacted with her in a variety of professional settings.

Since our first meeting, Ms. Pugh impressed me as a kind and caring individual. Her positive contributions to Baltimore City and the State of Maryland are without question, and she is beloved and respected in the communities in which she has lived and worked. She has been a supportive force for the betterment of Baltimore and the improvement of the lives of its citizens.

I sincerely hope that you will consider the totality of her contributions to the City and the community. It is my deepest hope that you render a lenient decision as you weigh the grand sum of her commitment, dedication, and diligence in the role of public servant.

Sincerely,



Wendell K. Sutton



Pia Angela Taylor



January 21, 2020

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

RE: Catherine E. Pugh

Dear Judge Chasanow:

I am writing this letter as a close family friend for Catherine Pugh. Catherine has been my “sister-friend” and embraced as daughter by my mom and dad since 1991. She is a woman of faith who inspires others to grow and to dream big. Catherine has planted hope in hearts of so many people who did not believe in themselves; she comforted and shared strategies for women and families who did not realize they could rise above, and move beyond tragic circumstances to a bright and successful future. Catherine’s strength, imagination and innovative spirit motivates me to go the second mile, lift up a sister or brother in need of assistance and look for solutions that will help sustain our families and community through worship, education, the arts and economic resources.

For over 35 years, I worked at Maryland Legal Aid because I know that there are people in our community who live under the radar of justice and hope. Legal Aid is one voice that can speak for those thousands of people and the issues that affect them. I am one voice speaking for my friend and the impact on her future as a result of these proceedings. My friend is generous and kind, not extravagant and flamboyant. She is a giver, not a taker; she’s empathetic, patient and steps in to help, even at her own inconvenience. The Women’s Ministry of our church loves her and prays for her, remembering her graciousness when she participated in our annual conference, the street naming of our pastor, and 45<sup>th</sup> church anniversary celebration.

The Bible says that when God judges us, it is the intent of our hearts that decides the weight of our deeds; for actions cannot be judge honestly without revealing the intended purpose behind them. It is my prayer that you will clearly see the heart of Mayor Catherine Pugh, and recognize her sincere desire to make restoration to any and all who have been disadvantaged or harmed because of her action or inaction.

This is a plea to ask you to see the women of love and character that I have known over the years, and extend to her a merciful decision. I can be contacted if necessary, and am willing share more of my thoughts with you.

Sincerely,

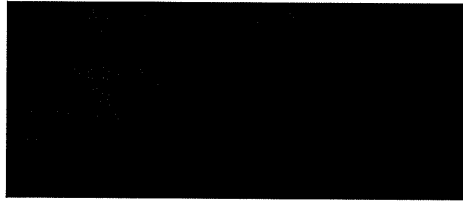
*Pia Angela Taylor*

Pia Angela Taylor





Phyllis T. Reese



February 4, 2020

The Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow

6500 Cherrywood Lane Suite 400

Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Dear Judge Chasnow,

Please accept this letter of support and acknowledgement for having known Ms. Catherine Pugh for close to forty years.

In the early eighties, I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Pugh at WJZ-TV in Baltimore, Maryland. She worked in the station's News Department while I was a manager in the Communications Department. Her knowledge, skills and ability to interact with diverse audiences were exemplary as she covered a variety of news stories about metropolitan Baltimore.

Often, Ms. Pugh would participate in seminars that exposed high school and college students to the television industry. She enjoyed mentoring college graduates interested in pursuing careers in media. Her wealth of experience in writing and understanding Baltimore's many attributes and challenges earned her the reputation of being an excellent advocate for nonprofit causes that promote Baltimore.

As a hard working and dedicated leader, Ms. Pugh has been honored by many organizations including the Baltimore Metropolitan Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. Her proven compassion, high energy and motivation to "go the extra mile" to help individuals and the citizens of Baltimore have been consistent for the many years I have known her.

Without reservation, I can attest to the goodness, value and attributes of Ms. Catherine Pugh.

Sincerely,

Phyllis T. Reese, Retiree

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Paige D. Hines

February 12, 2020

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow  
US District Judge  
% Steve Silverman, Attorney at Law

Dear Judge Deborah Chasanow,

I have known Catherine Pugh since 2002, she is a dear friend and we both joined a public service organization at the same time; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. I was quite surprised to hear about her recent case as she has always been a woman of dedication, integrity and of high moral standards. It is for this reason I am happy to write a letter for Ms. Catherine Pugh regarding this matter. I understand the gravity of this matter and am asking the court to show her leniency.

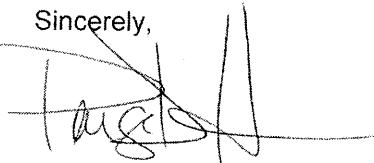
Catherine has always been a person of high moral character, a dear friend and has been there for me no matter what. In 2009 I reached out to Catherine to find out some crucial information regarding the Foster Care System in Baltimore City and even though she was extremely busy, she made it a priority to respond to me right away and refer me to someone that could answer my questions immediately. She has been a great friend to me over the years. Catherine has always wanted to be the Mayor of Baltimore City and was dedicated to this city and her constituents. I have volunteered for Catherine's campaigns in some capacity since her run for President of City Council in 2003. I will never forget the first time I volunteered for Catherine, she was so fervent and always wore a flower on the lapel of her dresses and/suit jackets, and I was so impressed and wanted to be just like her. I was also so excited to serve under her and I loved her passion to drive change and her ability to inspire others into action; she inspired me to give back to my community. Her tireless commitment to the city and her willingness to pull up her sleeves to get the job done bears testament to her drive and passion for the City of Baltimore. I will never forget when she walked side by side with her constituents after the Baltimore riots.

While it is unfortunate that she has made some mistakes and bad decisions, as we all do, I am not surprised that she takes responsibility for the choices that she has made and the actions that she has taken. And I truly hope that all that she has done for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland is not forgotten. I believe as we move forward, she will emerge as an even better person.

It is my sincere hope that the court takes this letter into consideration at the time of sentencing. Despite the current case, I still believe Catherine Pugh to be an honorable individual, a valuable member of the community and an overall good human being.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paige D. Hines', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Paige D. Hines, MBA, PMP, CSM, SASM

Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow

US District Judge

C/O Steve Silverman, Attorney at Law

Re: Catherine Pugh

Dear Judge Deborah K. Chasanow:

I am writing this letter as a character reference for Catherine Pugh. I have known Catherine for 18 years when we joined a public service organization together in 2002. She has always been very sweet and kind to me. Every time I saw her, she would greet me with heartfelt smile and hug.

Catherine is a very genuine person that truly cares and has worked tirelessly for her community. She has served our community in so many capacities. I remember watching her on television during the Freddie Gray riots and I was proud to call her my friend. She truly loves the inner city youth and has done so much for the City of Baltimore.

I was shocked, surprised and saddened of the recent events and charges. In light of these charges, my hope and prayer is that ALL the good Catherine Pugh has done is remembered when decisions are being made.

She is a remarkable woman and I am still proud to call her my friend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Staci Roberts', with a stylized, flowing script.

Staci Loftin Roberts

